THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No Water supply scheme with cost involvement of Rs. 1200 crore has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Sunderban as National Waterway

5744. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government approached the Union Government some time back for declaring the portion of Ganga passing through Sunderbans area in that State as "National Waterway"

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter, when it has already declared the cauvery National Waterway; and

(c) The difficulties which lie in the way of Government in doing the needful, particularly when this area is poverty-ridden and the declaration of National Waterway could provide some means of livelihood to its residents ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Kaveri river has not been declared as National Waterway. The proposal for declaration, of the steamer route in Sundarbans from Rangafala channel to Beharighal-Raimangal river confluence, as National Waterway has been formulated and is under process. The Environmental Impact assessment and Environment Management Plan studies have been completed. The clearance from authorities concerned of West Bengal Govt. is being obtained.

Malpractices in Technical Institutions

5745. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the educational institutions approved by all India Council of Technical Education are indulging in malpractices;

(b) Whether the Government are aware that hotel management courses are offered by three categories of educational institutions – institutions run by National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, self-financing colleges affiliated to respective Universities and Institutions which do not fall under above categories but simply 'approved' by AICTE (for infrastructural facilities) and no affiliated to universities or recognised by State Technical Boards;

(c) if so, whether the Government would like to have a through checking and save the time and money of our young generation being given to these institutions which are not approved by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), no incidence of any malpractices in any institute approved by it has come to its notice. The performance of these approved institutes is periodically monitored by the Council. Existing Hotel Management and Catering Technology Institutions are affiliated either to concerned University, State Technical Board or National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology. All self-financing colleges approved by AICTE fall under categories only.

[Translation]

Memorandum by Nurses Union

5746. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some memoranda or representations, from the nurses and the office bearers of their Unions working in various Government hospitals of the Capital, regarding the acceptance of their demands during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their demands;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in this regard and the time by which these demands are likely to be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The demands of nurses inter-alia include change of colour of uniform from white to camel colour, better promotional avenues, filling up of vacant posts, accommodation facilities etc.

(c) and (d) A High Powered Committee under the Chairpersnship of a retired Delhi High Court Judge has been constituted to look into the matter of change of colour